

REMARKS

Objection to the Specification

The specification has been updated, showing the current information for all previously referenced patent applications.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 has been amended to delete the Trademark “KEVLAR” and is replaced with the well known chemical name for KEVLAR.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Published PCT Application WO 98/54008 A1 in view of Wallace (2,625,981). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

WO 98/54008 A1 discloses a tire structure similar to that recited; but it is silent about the use of a composite ply structure of the type recited by Applicants. Specifically, WO 98/54008 fails to teach any partial precuring of any of the tire components.

Wallace teaches, to reduce tire growth and reduce rubber strain, building a tire with shorter than usual rubber components and stretching the components during full vulcanization. To prevent slippage of the uncured carcass around the beads during full vulcanization, Wallace discloses anchoring the “ends or lateral edges of the textile fabric plies” prior to full tire cure by locally vulcanized the tire carcass in the bead region of the tire. The of the entire bead region of the tire prior to a final curing of the tire. In the Office Action, Wallace is cited as showing that is known to precure overlapping portions in tires to prevent slipping.

What Wallace actually teaches is precuring of the entire bead area of a tire, thus precuring the bead flipper strips, the carcass ply portions in the bead region, and any rubber in the bead region of the tire. By precuring this entire tire region Wallace achieves stabilization of the carcass ply ends.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness, there 1) must be some suggestion or motivation in the art to modify or combine the references; 2) must be a reasonable expectation of success and 3) the combined references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Graham v.

Deere. The present rejection fails to meet all three of the above requirements.

Wallace teaches that two essential elements about the precuring of the bead region: that the precuring is done when the tire carcass elements are intentionally built smaller than usual and that a full torodial tire is assembled prior to the bead region being precured.

WO 98/54008 is silent about the tire elements being assembled being of a dimension smaller than typical. Thus, there is no motivation here to look to the teachings of Wallace. Simply because both reference disclose tire manufacturing methods would not automatically lead one skilled in the art to combine the teachings or direct one to modify the teachings of WO 98/54008.

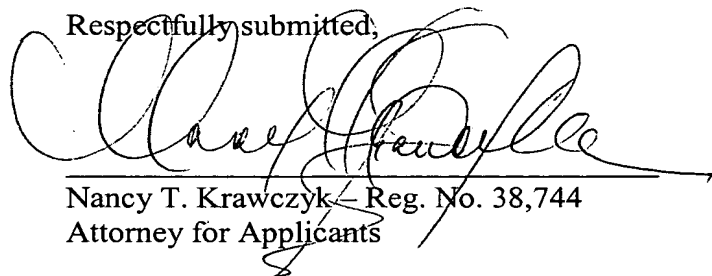
Second, were one motivated to modify the teachings of WO 98/54008 with Wallace, one skilled in the art would a) build the entire tire of WO 98/54008 prior to precuring and b) precure the entire bead area. The resulting process fails to yield the intermediate article of construction as recited. The claimed intermediate article recites that only the overlapped portion is cured – the remaining portions of the overlapping ply extensions and the primary ply, even in the bead region of the resulting tire, remain uncured. Also, the claim is directed to an intermediate article of construction, not an entire tire. Wallace teaches precuring of a limited region of the tire, and not precuring of a component that is then put into the green tire with an already partial precured component therein. Thus, one skilled in the art would not have found it obvious to stop the build of WO 98/54008 at the composite assembly step to precure, or partially cure, only a small portion of the carcass assembly.

Thus, this rejection fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness as there is no motivation to combine, and the combined references fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

As WO 98/54008 A1 in view of Wallace fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness of the invention as recited in the claims, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy T. Krawczyk", written over a horizontal line.

Nancy T. Krawczyk - Reg. No. 38,744
Attorney for Applicants

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Department 823
1144 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44316-0001
Telephone: (330) 796-6366
Facsimile: (330) 796-9018